



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/442,627	11/17/1999	BRETT D. RIGGS	PACACC.001A	6181

7590 02/28/2003

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP  
620 NEWPORT CENTER DRIVE  
SIXTEENTH FLOOR  
NEW PORT BEACH, CA 92660

EXAMINER

GRAHAM, ANDREW R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2697

DATE MAILED: 02/28/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/442,627

Applicant(s)

RIGGS, BRETT D.

Examiner

Andrew R Graham

Art Unit

2697

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Art Unit: 2697

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Information Disclosure Statement***

1. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on January 1, 2000 was filed after the mailing date of the initial application on November 17, 1999. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement has been considered by the examiner.

### ***Claim Objections***

**Claims 12-17** are objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form.

**Claim 12 is** dependant upon Claim 9 and recites the limitation "wherein the replacement stereo receiver is adapted to receive wireless remote control signals to control the operation of the replacement stereo receiver". Claim 9 recites the exact same limitation on lines 17-19 of page 20 of the application. Thus, the dependent claim, Claim 12, fails to further limit its parent claim.

**Claims 12-17** are objected to because of their dependencies upon Claim 12.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. **Claims 13-17** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

4. **Claim 13** recites the limitation "the device" in the first line of the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Two "devices" are disclosed in a parent claim, claim 9, but no distinction is made between the two in this reference made in Claim 13.

**Claims 14-17** are rejected for their dependencies upon Claim 13.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Art Unit: 2697

6. **Claims 1 and 2** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Harris (USPN 5339362).

Harris discloses a modular automotive system that includes a controller interface that is able to connect, detect, and automatically control various audio and other electronic signal processing components. Specifically regarding **Claim 1**, Harris discloses an automotive audio system that comprises a motherboard (65) for connecting various signal-processing modules, where the communication between these modules and the other parts of the system is coordinated by a controller module (col. 4, lines 26-44 and col. 10, lines 49-60). This reads on "a stereo control interface device". A remote data access terminal (RDAT) (16) is disclosed, which is used to input manual controls for each combination of signal processing and amplifier cards connected to the interface (col. 17, lines 60-67 and col. 18, lines 1-20). This reads on "at least one local vehicle stereo control device installed in a vehicle to control an originally installed stereo receiver" and "so that the at least one local vehicle stereo control device can be used to control the operation of the replacement stereo receiver". Among the various types of signal processors that may be connected to the interface, Harris teaches that one of the possible modules is an FM tuner/CD changer (col. 13, lines 15-23). One of the specific advantages of this system as disclosed by Harris is the ability to easily upgrade individual modules (col. 2, lines 19-22). The system also dedicates six input slots for connecting various combinations of signal-processing cards to the

Art Unit: 2697

system (col. 4, lines 35-43 and Figure 5). These two factors inherently mean that one radio card may replace or be added to another, previously installed radio tuner card, in either the same or neighboring interface ports. This interchangeability reads on "a replacement stereo receiver installed in the vehicle to replace the originally installed stereo receiver".

Regarding **Claim 2**, Harris discloses that the input control device, the RDATA (16), can be selectively mounted in the vehicle, and that the same device is used to control each of the audio system configurations (col. 3, lines 9-33). One of the manners in which the RDATA can be mounted in the vehicle is disclosed as in the conventional location on the dashboard next to the steering wheel, which reads on "at least one switch located adjacent the steering wheel of the vehicle that is originally electrically connected to a factory installed stereo of the vehicle".

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2697

8. **Claim 3** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harris, as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and in further view of the applicant's own admitted prior art.

As detailed above, Harris teaches a modular audio system for vehicles that allows various audio and amplifier components to be combined in and controlled by the same stereo interface. In this system, the same controller is used to manage the communication between each of the various components of the various possible configurations of the system (col. 3, lines 9-33 and col. 17, lines 60-67 and col. 18, lines 1-19). Harris also repeatedly specifies that the controller may be mounted in the same location as conventional radio controls (col. 3, lines 20-22 and col. 17, line 67, and col. 18, lines 1-2).

Harris though does not specify:

- that the standard radio controls of a vehicle are those of a motorcycle
- that the motorcycle controls are arranged with at least one switch located adjacent the handlebars of the motorcycle

In regards to previously known art, the applicant discloses that high-end motorcycles typically include expensive stereo systems, and such systems are often equipped with local stereo controls positioned on the handlebars (page 7, lines 20-26). This type of motorcycle audio control arrangement is specifically described as "commonly known" (page 7, line 21). This reads on "a motorcycle and the at

Art Unit: 2697

least one local vehicle stereo control device comprises at least one switch located adjacent the handlebars of the motorcycle".

Within the concept taught by Harris, it would have been obvious to modify the system of Harris by including it on a motorcycle such as that described by the applicant as previously known in the art. The motivation behind such a modification would have been the modularity and ability to upgrade the audio components, the ease of interchanging such components, and the continued use of the same controls.

9. **Claim 4** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harris as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of Haubner (USPN 5559499).

As detailed above, Harris teaches a modular audio system for vehicles that allows various audio and amplifier components to be combined in and controlled by the same stereo interface. Harris also discloses a local vehicle stereo control device (16) that, in one embodiment, is hardwired to the controller housing (12) through a conventional RJ-11 type jack (62). This reads on "the stereo control interface device is adapted to be electrically coupled to the at least one local vehicle stereo control device". Harris also discloses that signals are passed between the interface and the signal processor cards by inserting them into the housing without connecting or using any additional wiring (col. 4, lines 40-43).

Yet, Harris does not disclose:



Art Unit: 2697

- that the interface is adapted to send a wireless control signal to the signal processor cards

Haubner discloses an infrared transmission system that reliably sends and receives information, and also emits visible indications concerning the status of the wireless connection (col. 2, lines 7-16 and col. 3, lines 24-67 and col. 4, lines 1-33). One area of application is specifically listed as stereo systems (col. 2, lines 11-16). Such a means of communication reads on "adapted to produce a wireless signal" and the passing of information in the signal reads on "corresponding to the signal received from the at least one local vehicle stereo control device".

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Harris by using the wireless communication system taught by Haubner to connect the control interface with the signal processing cards. Several motivations would have existed for such a modification; Such an arrangement would have required no physical connection between the interface and the processing cards, more flexibility would have then been permitted in terms of the physical design and layout of the controller housing, and the special features of the system of Haubner would have provided a user with information confirming a valid connection between the interface and signal-processing cards.

Art Unit: 2697

10. **Claims 5-8** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harris and Haubner as applied to claim 4 above, and further in view of the applicant's admitted prior art and further in view of Kadnier (USPN 5559499).

As detailed above, Harris teaches a modular audio system for vehicles that allows various audio and amplifier components to be combined in and controlled by the same stereo interface. Haubner discloses a method and device for wirelessly sharing information and providing indications concerning the strength of the connection.

Harris teaches that one of the types of signal-processing cards that may be employed in his interface is an FM Tuner/CD Controller module (col. 13, lines 15-31).

Yet, neither Harris nor Haubner discloses:

- that these receivers are adapted to receive wireless signals from a handheld remote control

In establishing the advantages of the system of the current application over those found in prior art, the applicant discloses the related features of the other systems previously known in the art. In the description for the prior known radio control system, the specification discloses that the typical after-market receiver is equipped with a wireless receiver and a corresponding infrared remote control (page 6, lines 25-27). These remote controls are also disclosed as often being able to adjust various aspects of the stereo's operation, including the channel and volume settings (page 6, lines 27-28). This reads on "the replacement stereo receiver is

Art Unit: 2697

adapted to receive a first wireless signal from a handheld remote control upon a user depressing a first function key on the handheld remote control to change a first function of the operation of the replacement stereo receiver".

To one of ordinary skill in the art, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to integrate a receiver with a remote control as disclosed by applicant into the system of Harris in view of Haubner. The motivation behind such an inclusion and modification would have been the improved manner in which the receiver would have been controlled; not only would a remote control have provided another, separate physical means for controlling the receiver, but it also would have provided a means that would have not needed to be physically connected to the audio system.

Harris in view of Haubner and further in view of applicant's admitted prior art do not specify:

- that the stereo control interface can receive these wireless transmissions as well
- that the stereo control interface outputs a signal to the receiver corresponding to the received control signal from the remote control

Kadnier discloses a universal remote control receiver that can be programmed to selectively recognize and respond to a variety of input control signals from various input remote controls (col. 3, lines 34-45). Illustrated in Figures 5A-5C, the system of Kadnier first

Art Unit: 2697

instructs a user to input a command key to be assigned a function (204-210), and then, in a later step (234), the user is instructed to assign a command to be execute upon receipt of the input control command (col. 9, lines 19-59 and col. 12, lines 25-32). Kadnier discloses that the system is particularly intended to operate in response to signals sent by infrared remote controllers (col. 4, lines 4-12). This reads on "produces a signal corresponding to the first wireless signal in response to a driver activating a first local vehicle stereo control device".

To one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to include a universal receiver as taught by Kadnier in the modular audio system as disclosed by Harris in view of Haubner and admitted prior art. Such a modification would have been desirable because the system of Harris includes the option of having a plurality of tuner cards installed in it, and the universal receiver would have enabled each of the remotes associated with these tuner cards to completely control the audio system. The programmable aspect of the receiver taught by Kadnier would have also enhanced the extent of control available to each of these individual remote controls.

Regarding **Claim 6**, Harris discloses that the software of the RDATA (16), the local input control device, is flexible and permits the programming of macros to run a selected set of operations in response to a preset input (col. 13, lines 5-11). This reads on "the stereo interface control device includes a memory and is programmable such

Art Unit: 2697

that a programmer can sequentially store wireless signals corresponding to the at least one local vehicle stereo control devices".

Regarding **Claim 7**, Figures 5A-5C of Kadnier disclose the process by which a user may program the receiver to selectively associate a set of output signals with an input signal (col. 9, lines 19-67, col. 10, lines 1-67, col. 11, lines 1-67, and col. 12, lines 1-62). This reads on "the stereo control interface device includes a program mode wherein the stereo control interface device can be programmed by a programmer activating a first local vehicle stereo control device and the first function key on the handheld remote control".

Regarding **Claim 8**, the universal remote receiver of Kadnier includes an infrared receiver for receiving a plurality of infrared input signals (col. 4, lines 4-12). This reads on "a wireless receiver" and "receive the first wireless signal from the handheld remote control". As discussed in reference to Claim 7, the programmability feature of the RDATA (16) of Harris includes the capability of writing and inherently storing macros, which reads on "store a corresponding signal in the memory such that the stereo control interface device can recall the stored signal and thereby generate a wireless signal corresponding to the first wireless signal" (col. 13, lines 5-11). As discussed in reference to Claim 4, Haubner discloses a method of an infrared transmission of data that includes both an infrared transmitter and receiver, which reads on "a wireless transmitter" and "generate a wireless signal" (col. 2, lines 8-64).

Art Unit: 2697

11. **Claims 9-12** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harris as applied to claims 1 and 2 above, and further in view of the applicant's admitted prior art and further in view of Kadnier.

As detailed above, Harris discloses a modular automotive system that includes a controller interface that is able to connect, detect, and automatically control various audio and other electronic signal processing components. Specifically regarding **Claim 9**, Harris discloses an automotive audio system that comprises a motherboard (65) for connecting various signal-processing modules, where the communication between these modules and the other parts of the system is coordinated by a controller module (col. 4, lines 26-44 and col. 10, lines 49-60). This reads on "a stereo system" and "an interface device that is adapted to be positioned within the vehicle to as to be able to receive the local control signals". A remote data access terminal (RDAT) (16) is disclosed, which is used to control each combination of signal processing and amplifier cards connected to the interface (col. 17, lines 60-67 and col. 18, lines 1-20). One of two methods of connecting the RDAT to the controller interface is detailed as being mounted on the dashboard in the traditional radio location next to the steering wheel (col. 3, lines 20-22). This reads on "at least one local vehicle stereo control device mounted in a first location on the vehicle that is adapted to send local control signals to an original stereo receiver". Among the various types of signal processors that may be connected to the interface, Harris teaches that

Art Unit: 2697

one of the possible types of modules is an FM tuner/CD changer (col. 13, lines 15-23). One of the specific advantages of this system as disclosed by Harris is the ability to easily upgrade individual modules (col. 2, lines 19-22). The system also dedicates six input slots for connecting various combinations of signal-processing cards to the system (col. 4, lines 35-43 and Figure 5). These two factors inherently mean that one radio card may replace or be added to another, previously installed radio tuner card, in either the same or neighboring interface ports. This interchangeability reads on "a replacement stereo receiver adapted to replace an original stereo receiver, wherein the replacement stereo is mounted in a second location on the vehicle".

Yet, Harris does not disclose:

- that the replacement stereo receiver is adapted to receive remote control signals

In establishing the advantages of the system of the current application over prior systems, the applicant discloses the related features of other audio electronics previously known in the art. In the description for the prior known radio control systems, the specification discloses that the typical after-market receiver is equipped with a wireless receiver and a corresponding infrared remote control (page 6, lines 25-27). These remote controls are also disclosed as often being able to adjust various aspects of the stereo's operation, including the channel and volume settings (page 6, lines 27-28). This reads on "the replacement stereo receiver is

Art Unit: 2697

adapted to receive remote control signals to control the operation of the replacement stereo receiver".

To one of ordinary skill in the art, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to include a receiver with a remote control in the system of Harris as disclosed by applicant's admitted prior art. The motivation behind such an inclusion and modification would have been the improved manner in which the receiver would have been controlled; not only would a remote control have provided another, separate physical means for controlling the receiver, but this additional means would have not required a physical connection to the audio system.

Yet, Harris in view of applicant's admitted prior art does not specify:

- that the interface is able to send output control signals corresponding to the remote control signals

Kadnier discloses a universal remote control receiver that can be programmed to selectively recognize and respond to a variety of input control signals from various input remote controllers (col. 3, lines 34-45). Illustrated in Figures 5A-5C, the system of Kadnier first instructs a user to input a command key to be assigned a function (204-210), and then, in a later step (234), the user is instructed to assign a command to be executed upon receipt of the input control command (col. 9, lines 19-59 and col. 12, lines 25-32). Kadnier



Art Unit: 2697

discloses that the system is particularly intended to operate in response to signals sent by infrared remote controllers (col. 4, lines 4-12). This reads on "send output control signals corresponding to the remote control signals so as to control the operation of the replacement stereo".

To one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to include a universal receiver as taught by Kadnier in the modular audio system as disclosed by Harris in view of applicant's admitted prior art. Such a modification would have been desirable because the system of Harris includes the option of having a plurality of tuner cards installed in it, and the universal receiver would have enabled each of the remotes associated with these tuner cards to completely control the audio system. The programmable aspect of the receiver taught by Kadnier would have also enhanced the extent of control available to each of these individual remote controls.

Regarding **Claim 10**, Harris discloses that the input control device, the RDATA (16), can be selectively mounted in the vehicle, and that the same device is used to control each of the audio system configurations (col. 3, lines 9-33). One of the manners in which the RDATA can be mounted in the vehicle is disclosed as in the conventional location on the dashboard next to the steering wheel, which reads on "at least one switch located adjacent the steering wheel of the vehicle that is originally electrically connected to an originally installed stereo receiver of the vehicle".

Art Unit: 2697

Regarding **Claim 11**, Harris does not specify:

- that the standard radio controls of a vehicle are those of a motorcycle
- that the motorcycle controls are arranged with at least one switch located adjacent the handlebars of the motorcycle

In regards to previously known art, the applicant discloses that high-end motorcycles typically include expensive stereo systems, and such systems are often equipped with local stereo controls positioned on the handlebars (page 7, lines 20-26). This type of motorcycle audio control arrangement is specifically described as "commonly known" (page 7, line 21). This reads on "a motorcycle and the at least one local vehicle stereo control device comprises at least one switch located adjacent the handlebars of the motorcycle".

Within the concept taught by Harris, it would have been obvious to modify the system of Harris by including it on a motorcycle such as that described by the applicant's admitted prior art. The motivation behind such a modification would have been the modularity and ability to upgrade the audio components, the ease of interchanging such components, and the continued use of the same controls.

Regarding **Claim 12**, please refer to the like teachings of Claim 9, particularly the modifications that would have been obvious in view of applicant's admitted prior art.

Art Unit: 2697

12. **Claims 13-17** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Harris in view of applicant's admitted prior art and further in view of Kadnier as applied to claims 9-12 above, and further in view of Haubner.

As detailed above, Harris teaches a modular audio system for vehicles that allows various audio and amplifier components to be combined in and controlled by the same stereo interface. The applicant's admitted prior art discloses that stereo receivers with infrared remote controls were commonly known in the field at the time of the invention. Kadnier teaches a universal receiver that would have enabled the audio system to receive input signals from any type of infrared remote control and assign a specific output function to said inputs.

Harris also discloses a local vehicle stereo control device (16) that, in one embodiment, is hardwired to the controller housing (12) through a conventional RJ-11 type jack (62). This reads on "device is adapted to be electrically coupled to the at least one local stereo control device". Harris also discloses that signals are passed between the interface and the signal processor cards by inserting them into the housing without connecting or using any additional wiring (col. 4, lines 40-43).

As modified in regards to Claim 9, the universal receiver abilities of the device of Kadnier enable the system to receive input control signals from a remote control device, which enables the

Art Unit: 2697

modified system to "output control signals to the replacement stereo receiver corresponding to the remote control signals".

Yet, Harris in view of applicant's admitted prior art and Kadnier does not specify:

- that the interface is adapted to transmit and receive wireless control signals to/from the signal processor cards

Haubner discloses an infrared transmission system that reliably sends and receives information, and also emits visible indications concerning the status of the wireless connection (col. 2, lines 7-16 and col. 3, lines 24-67 and col. 4, lines 1-33). One area of application is specifically listed as stereo systems (col. 2, lines 11-16). Such a means of communication reads on "adapted to receive and produce, in response to receiving the local control signals from the at least one local stereo control device, wireless output control signals to the replacement stereo receiver".

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Harris by using the wireless communication devices taught by Haubner to connect the control interface with the modular signal processing cards. Several motivations would have existed for such a modification; Such an arrangement would have required no physical connection between the interface and the processing cards, more flexibility would have then

Art Unit: 2697

been permitted in terms of the physical design and layout of the controller housing, and the special features of the system of Haubner would have provided a user with information confirming an acceptable connection between the interface and signal-processing cards.

Regarding **Claim 14**, Harris discloses that the software of the RDATA (16), the local input control device, is flexible and permits the programming of macros to run a selected set of operations in response to a preset input (col. 13, lines 5-11). This reads on "the interface device can be programmed to produce a first wireless output control signal in response to receiving a first local control signal from the at least one local stereo control device".

Regarding **Claim 15**, please refer to the like teachings of Claim 9, particularly the modifications made in view of the teachings of Kadnier.

Regarding **Claim 16**, the method of infrared communication taught by Haubner includes the use of a transmitting diode (11) to output a control signal to the component (12) that receives the information (col. 2, lines 8-44). This reads on "a wireless transmitter that is capable of transmitting the wireless output control signals".

Regarding **Claim 17**, the universal receiver of Kadnier and the transmitter and receiver of Haubner each transmit and receive infrared communications (Kadnier - (col. 4, lines 4-12) Haubner - (col. 2, lines 8-16). This reads on "the wireless transmitter and the wireless receiver comprises an infrared transmitter and receiver".

Art Unit: 2697

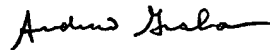
**Conclusion**

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

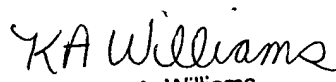
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Graham whose telephone number is (703) 308-6729. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (7:30-4:30), excluding alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly Williams, can be reached at (703) 305-4863. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9314 for regular communications, and 703-872-9315 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.



Andrew Graham  
Examiner  
A.U. 2697



Kimberly A. Williams  
Primary Examiner  
Technology Center 2600